DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

McKinley Technology Education Campus
Dr. Louise Jones, Principal

December 17, 2015

Dear McKinley Technology Parents and School Staff Members:

This is a follow up to the letter on Monday, December 14th. Our student who was shot last weekend is making progress and expected to recover from his injuries. He seems to have been in the wrong place at the wrong time. This unfortunate incident happened over the weekend, off campus, in the evening and was not connected to the school. Therefore our security measures were not impacted. We are grateful that our student is on the road to recovery!

We want to show our support for him and so if students would like to make cards or write letters we can make sure they are delivered to his home. Staff, if you would like a member of the Clinical Team to be present to assist you with this activity, please let me know

After initially hearing the news, many of you may have felt a variety of emotions, including shock, sadness, and anger. You may have also observed these reactions from students as well. Any time violence touches us, it can be extremely stressful. If anyone has experienced a trauma or loss recently, this incident may trigger feelings about the trauma or loss. This is a normal experience. It can be helpful to talk to someone if you find that you are having recurrent thoughts or feelings brought about by this experience. While we had the crisis team available on Monday please know that our support personnel are still here to assist.

The McKinley Technology Clinical Team has been available to respond to the emotional needs of the students and staff by offering counseling, referrals and other collaborative support. They continue to be available, if anyone needs their assistance. The team includes the social workers, guidance counselors and school psychologist.

An incident like this may often provoke rumors amongst the students. Please discourage any conversations of this kind that you may hear. We want to be respectful to the student who was injured and not speculate or add to the rumor mill.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

M. Louise Jones

Dr. Louise Jones
Principal

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WashPost 23Apr.16 P.B3

THE DISTRICT

City staggers bell times at two rival high schools

BY PERRY STEIN

D.C. high schools Dunbar and McKinley Tech are located about a 20-minute walk from each other in Northwest's Truxton Circle and Northeast's Eckington neighborhoods, respectively.

But neither school has a Metrorail station in the immediate vicinity, and students from both schools often commute on the same bus lines and walk to the closest Metro station — the NoMa-Gallaudet U station on the Red Line.

On April 11, dozens of students from the high schools gathered at the NoMa-Gallaudet U station in Northeast for a school-on-school fight. Readers of the local blog PoPville sent in pictures of the apparent melee, saying it was "madness."

The Metropolitan Police Department said police officers responded to the station at 3:46 p.m. that day but did not file a police report.

D.C. Public Schools also confirmed the incident.

The school system said because of that fight and an increasing number of conflicts between students at the two high schools, it will now stagger the arrival and dismissal times of the schools so students aren't coming and going at the same times.

Both schools currently run from 8:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. on regular academic days. The new times, which are scheduled to go into effect Monday: McKinley will start at 8:35 a.m. and run until 3:05 p.m., and Dunbar's school day will be 8:55 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.

"We just want to make sure that both communities are able to have a very productive time in and out of school, whether they are commuting or in school," said Michelle Lerner, a D.C. Public Schools spokeswoman.

The schools have sent letters to parents informing them of the changes.

Lerner said this is the first time in recent memory that the school system has taken such action, and she said it is still unclear whether this change will continue into the next academic year.

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

McKinley Technology Education Campus
Dr. Louise Jones, Principal

April 28, 2016

Questionnaire

Grade: 9th__ 10th__ 11th __ 12th __

Male: ____

Female: ____

1. What are two supports that you want to see McKinley staff provide for you in order to make feel safe traveling to and from your school?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

2. In your opinion list two myths and two facts about the relationship between the Dunbar and McKinley.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

3. Provide additional questions or comment.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

McKinley Technology Education Campus
Dr. Louise Jones, Principal

May 10, 2016

Dear McKinley Tech Students and Parents,

Many of you are probably wondering how the staggered dismissal times are working. We have not had further issues at the Metro and our students who leave right at dismissal are now on the Metro trains before Dunbar students arrive. There continues to be a staff presence along the dismissal route and an increased police presence.

While the original issue involved McKinley girls and Dunbar girls, many of our issues are not really issues with McKinley vs Dunbar but more neighborhood issues, and students who go to both schools are sometimes on the same side. While we are committed to doing what we can as a school to prevent violence this has to also be addressed by families and community organizations.

I would like to thank our PTSA Board Members for their support and suggestions. I am also happy to announce that they are devoting a good portion of the next PTSA meeting, on May 18th at 6:00 p.m. to host a "Safety Panel" to talk about realty vs myths, ways to de-escalate potential violence, monitoring of social media, tips and suggestions for personal safety. We will have representatives from the Metro Police, MPD, DCPS, socio-emotional expert, community leaders, and students. Come hear about the response to the recent issues, ideas for the future and how we can work together.

The Sankofa Project will be advertising a peace walk for Ward Five in June. Details will be shares as they are developed. One of our students, Christian Bryant would like to organize a peace coalition between our students and others and will be asking for support from our student body.

McKinley Tech is a wonderful school and while we have some of the same issues as other schools we have also enjoyed a reputation as a safe school. We want our students to be safe at school and in the community. Come out and support our PTSA and our students and staff. Our next PTSA meeting is May 18th at 6:00 pm in the Middle School Learning Lab. The Middle School Learning Lab is located on the 2nd floor of the middle school wing. I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

M. Louise Jones

M. Louise Jones, Ed.D.
Principal

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